

of *British Insects*. Royal Entomological Society of London. **10** 4a (i)). The same author cites 14 UK records of this Rare (RDB 3) species from a variety of habitats, mainly in south England.

In my previous note (Dobson, *op. cit.*) I gave one record of *Wagneria gagatea* R.-D. from Brent Reservoir. I now have an additional record of this Rare (RDB 3) Tachinid fly from a different area of the same site: two males, 5 June 1996, East SSSI, TQ2187. It is of interest that a male of this species was also recorded from a garden in the area (c. 7km from Brent Reservoir), adjacent to Coppetts Wood LNR, Barnet by K.G.V. Smith (1996. *Wagneria gagatea* R.-D. (Dipt.: Tachinidae) in north London (Middlesex). *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, **132**: 176) on 25 May 1995, three days before I first found it at Brent Reservoir. The only UK rearing record is from The Chestnut *Conistra vaccinii* (L.), a moth which is widespread in the London area and associated here with *Salix* spp. (Plant, C.W., 1993. *Larger moths of the London area*. London Natural History Society). Continental rearing records (from a small number of species of Lepidoptera) and the distribution of this fly in the UK are discussed by Belshaw (*op. cit.*) and Smith (*op. cit.*).

It is unfortunate that two errors occurred in my note on *Thecocarcelia acutangulata* in this journal (Dobson, *op. cit.*). In the first instance, the correct date of capture for this specimen is 3 September 1994 (not 3 October 1994 as cited). I would like to apologise to anyone who is inconvenienced by my mistake. In the second place a "printer's devil" lost 15 words, splicing the beginning of one sentence with the end of the next. This occurs two-thirds of the way down page 309 and should read as follows:

"Reared specimens of *T. acutangulata* in the Natural History Museum are all Afrotropical and are associated with five species of hesperiid host (N. Wyatt, *pers. comm.*). In addition there is an Austrian rearing record of this species (as *Thecocarcelia incendens* (Rondani)) from *Thymelicus lineola* Ochs., the Essex Skipper butterfly (which occurs at Brent Reservoir) (Carl, K.P., 1968. *Thymelicus lineola* (Lepidoptera: Hesperidae) and its parasites in Europe. *The Canadian Entomologist* **100**(8): 785-801)."

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Some notes on Lepidoptera in Surrey, 1994-6

Phyllonorycter leucographella Zell. is a species that has been rapidly extending its range since first being recorded in Britain in 1989. The first time I encountered this species was on a visit to Surrey in October 1995 when I found dozens of mines on a *Pyracantha* bush in Caterham - TQ331540.

On Box Hill, TQ181515, in June of the same year a single larva was found under a web on the upperside of a leaf of wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*, which, when bred proved to be *Zelleria hepariella* Stt. This appears to be a new foodplant for the species in Britain; *Fraxinus* is the only foodplant mentioned by Emmet (1991, in *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* 7(2) Harley Books).

Pediasia contaminella Hb. is a species I have mostly encountered on the coast in Kent and Hampshire, although Goater (1996, *British Pyralid Moths*, Harley Books) gives Middlesex and Hertfordshire as inland counties. I identified this species from Caterham TQ331540 first in vii.1994, and again on 28.vii and 1.viii.1996. Whether this represents its recent arrival in the area or whether it had previously been overlooked is uncertain. At the same locality, between 27.vii and 1.viii.1996 a single *Idaea vulpinaria atrosignaria* Lempke, and four specimens of *Parascotia fuliginaria* Linn. were taken at m.v. Although both species are well known from Surrey (e.g. Skinner, 1984. *Colour Identification guide to the Moths of the British Isles*, Viking), I had encountered neither in over 30 years acquaintance with the Lepidoptera of the eastern border of Surrey.

Finally, also at TQ331540, a large moth sitting on a tree trunk on the night of the 20.x.1995 proved to be a male *Mormo maura* Linn. in reasonable condition and a very unusual date for this species.— ROBERT M. PALMER, Greenburn Cottage, Bucksburn, Aberdeen AB21 9UA.

An early spring sighting of the Camberwell Beauty *Nymphalis antiopa* Linn. (Lep.: Nymphalidae) in Northumberland

Walking east of Morpeth along the northern bank of the River Wansbeck on 8 March 1977 my wife and I observed (and photographed) a Camberwell Beauty butterfly initially sunning itself on a fallen tree trunk and subsequently on the ground leaf litter, over a period of twenty minutes. The location (at grid reference NZ219859) was an open, sunny, but sheltered, area between the river and mixed woodland, which includes mature larch trees. Afterwards it flew off amongst the trees and was not seen again.

The butterfly was in good condition with only a few minor tears at the margins of the hindwings. The pair of subtriangular blotches on each forewing together with the borders of the wings, which are all usually cream coloured, were white.

Most sporadic sightings of the Camberwell Beauty have been in late summer (Chalmers-Hunt, 1977, *Ent. Rec.* 89: 89-105; Pittman, 1995, *Ent. Rec.* 107: 309-310) with spring sightings accounting for only about ten per cent (Bretherton & Emmet, 1989, In: *The Moths and Butterflies of Great*